

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13, 17 and 18. Claims 13, 17 and 18 are amended herein, and new claim 19 is added. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 13 and 17-19 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct an Examiner Interview on April 12, 2007. If further clarification is necessary, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned before acting on this application to expedite the prosecution of the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112¶ as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the recitation "tasks to be electronically processed" in claim 17 is indefinite.

Applicants believe that the Examiner meant to refer to claim 13 since claim 17 does not have such a recitation. Claim 13 is amended herein for clarification.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 13, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 (Nummelin) and U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 (Abbrussese).

Nummelin discusses function (226) for creating or modifying projects, tasks and resources by providing fields into which a project manager inputs primary and secondary information, and function (224) for validating the information input into specific fields as predefined by project management system (see, Fig. 2). However, the validation of fields in Nummelin is limited to predefined set of values dictated by the system for imposing restrictions on values that the system accepts in the fields such as whether the title of the project is the correct length, the file name is in proper syntax, the file name is already used and the path exists in the directory structure (see, col. 7, lines 24-37, col. 8, lines 49-59 and col. 11, lines 4-16).

On the other hand, the diary function in Abbrussese is limited to prioritizing work and scheduling various tasks for tracking progress of work currently in process. As specifically stated in Abbrussese, the diary function "records a specified date for action on a claim and displays that claim at the appropriate time and to rediary as needed" (see, col. 64, lines 55-65). That is, Abbrussese is limited to an operator (or supervisor) set reminder for displaying a specific claim at a specified date.

Independent claim 13 recites, "retrieving repudiation reasons from said database for a task having elements forming the task to be electronically authorized and for a user requesting authorization of said task" and "displaying said retrieved repudiation reasons for the task and retrieved repudiation reasons for the user." Claim 13 further recites, "of said elements forming the task to be electronically authorized, an element designated as a check point is provided for review based on a number of said retrieved repudiation reasons for the task and the user."

Claim 17 recites, "associating elements forming completed tasks with a user requesting authorization or repudiation reasons with respect to the completed tasks" and "identifying an element necessitating review as a check point for review among elements of a new electronically processed task presented by the user for review", where "said element matches a previously repudiated element of the completed tasks corresponding to the user."

The Examiner rejects claim 18 based on the same basis of rejection used for claim 17. Applicants respectfully indicate that claims 17 and 18 include independently patentable features and request that the Examiner address the same independently. For example, claim 18 recites, "first task" and "second task", which are not recited in claim 18.

Independent claim 18 recites, "comparing the contents of the first task with contents of a second task previously developed by the user and reviewed by a reviewer" and "identifying an object among the contents of the first task as a check point to be reviewed by the reviewer when said comparing indicates that the object of the first task matches an object of the second task previously repudiated."

Nummelin and Abbrussese, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features including identifying "a check point" necessitating review based on a comparison of previously reviewed tasks of the user under review with a current task submitted for review, as recited in each of the independent claims.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 19 has been added to recite, "determining whether elements of a task match elements of previously reviewed tasks associated with a user responsive to submission of the task for review by the user" and **"reviewing only elements of the task matching repudiated elements of the previously reviewed tasks of the user based on said determining"** (emphasis added).

Nummelin and Abbrussese do not teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 19 including "reviewing only elements of the task matching repudiated elements of the previously reviewed tasks of the user based on said determining."

It is submitted that new claim 19 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

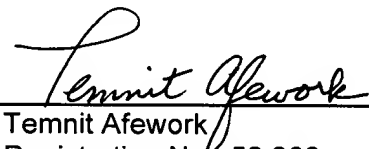
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Temnit Afework
Registration No. 58,202

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501